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TEACHER'S EDITION



ISSUE DATES	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 13	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 14	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 26	Feb. 2	Feb. 16	Feb. 23	Mar. 9	Mar. 23	Mar. 30	Apr. 13	Apr. 20	May 4	May 11 & 18
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TEACHING THE COVER STORY

Kids Who Care

Standard

HEALTH—Students should be able to demonstrate ways to communicate caring, consideration, and respect of self and others.

Summary

Scholastic News speaks with kids who are volunteering their time to help others in their communities this holiday season.

Pre-Reading Discussion

● What does it mean to be altruistic? Give some examples of altruism you have experienced or heard about.

Background

● In 2006, Ashley Imbrogno, now 11, started Warming the Hearts, an organization that provides fleece blankets to sick children and senior citizens in hospitals, senior centers, and nursing homes in the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Ashley and other volunteers make the blankets and distribute them during the holidays.

● The Ionia Kids Club in Ionia, Michigan, is making Holiday Hope Chests—decorated shoeboxes filled with small toys, books, art supplies,

and toiletries—for local needy children. The club is just one of more than 1,800 Kids Care Clubs that have made hundreds of thousands of Holiday Hope Chests since 1990.

● Community service can benefit volunteers, especially kids, in many ways. Through volunteering, kids learn new skills, make new friends, and become aware of the concerns of others. Data show that kids who volunteer have better grades and attendance.

Post-Reading Discussion

● What causes do you care most about? What are some ways in which you can volunteer your time to help those causes?

Mini Lesson Plan

Based on their individual interests and skills, students should come up with a service project to complete during their holiday break. It can be anything from writing a letter to a soldier to cleaning out their closets and donating their clothes. Have them write a service plan, and encourage them to carry it out.

Resources

● Visit www.idealists.org/kt to



TEACHING TIP OF THE WEEK

Using This Issue

Character Education is the focus of this issue.

● **RESEARCH SKILLS** Ask students to pick a cause they support, and have them research groups that are involved in the cause. Then, have them develop a plan of action to help.

● **CITIZENSHIP** Have students discuss the character traits of people who volunteer. Discuss how volunteering can be a part of good citizenship.

● **PERSUASIVE WRITING** Use the Mail Call student letters to the editor on Page 7 of the student magazine to promote persuasive writing. Such skills are often needed as a way to persuade decision-makers to take action on a particular service issue. Enjoy!

—Dara Sharif, Editor
dsharif@scholastic.com

find volunteer opportunities for kids, learn how kids can start their own service projects, read about organizations started by kids, and more.

● *Helping Kids Help: Organizing Successful Charitable Projects* by Renee Heiss. (Zephyr Press, 2006)



We are committed to your satisfaction. You can contact us at 1-800-724-6527.

ANSWER KEY

The answer key is available in the print version of this Teacher's Edition.

Makeover in Space... p. 6

Standard

SCIENCE: Students should develop an understanding of the solar system and Earth's place in it.

Summary

The International Space Station is getting a makeover that will include some important additions to make life on the station more comfortable for the astronauts who live there.

Pre-Reading Discussion

● What do you know about the International Space Station? What is its purpose?

Background

● The space shuttle *Endeavour* and its seven crew members launched into a two-week mission November 14 to get the space station ready for six permanent residents.

● The International Space Station

turned 10 years old on November 20.

● NASA plans to retire the space shuttle fleet in 2010 to make way for a new rocket ship.

Post-Reading Discussion

● Do you think the additions will make the space station a more comfortable place in which to live?

Mini Lesson Plan

Have students choose one of the space station additions and make a list of the advantages it will provide for crew members and for space exploration in general.

Resource

● For more information about the International Space Station, go to www.nasa.gov/station.

● *The International Space Station: An Orbiting Laboratory* by Devi Nipaul (Children's Press, 2004).

This Week Online

www.scholastic.com/sn56



News from Outer Space and More!

What happens when galaxies collide? Thanks to recent photos taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, we can see what is happening in other parts of the universe. Students can view a slide show of "crashing galaxies" on Scholastic News Online's special report, News from Space. The report also features a poll and online discussions about the latest developments in space travel, on the International Space Station, and about other major happenings in outer space.

Nation's Electors

Also online, students can learn more about how the Electoral College system works, by playing "You're the Candidate." In this interactive game for one or two players, student "candidates" design a strategy to

win the presidency of the United States. A major component of the strategy-building process is choosing the states in which to spend their time and precious campaign dollars. Players make their strategy decisions based on the game's display of electoral votes in each state and region. Then players race against political opponents as they create a platform and launch their presidential campaigns. Free lesson plans and printables included.

Economy 101

Finally, current economic challenges could make the holidays a little different for everyone this year. Scholastic Kid Reporters find out how charities and food assistance organizations are gearing up to help families and individuals in need this holiday season.

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U.S. Armed Forces



The United States military is made up of five branches. These armed services protect and defend the U.S. in times of war and assist in many projects during peacetime. The following chart lists some important information about the major branches of the U.S. military. Study this information, then answer the questions below.

	MISSION	ACTIVE PERSONNEL	EQUIPMENT	HISTORY
AIR FORCE	To protect and defend the nation through military operations in the air and in space.	about 330,000	Bombers, fighter jets, transport and supply planes, reconnaissance aircraft, and helicopters.	The Air Force began in 1907 as a division of the Army. In 1947, Congress made the Air Force a separate military branch.
ARMY	To protect and defend the nation through military operations on land.	about 490,000	Tanks, trucks, jeeps, helicopters, and planes. Soldiers use a variety of rifles, pistols, and other weapons.	The Army is the oldest branch of the U.S. military. The Continental Congress created it in June 1775 to fight in the Revolutionary War.
COAST GUARD	To protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests on the high seas and other bodies of water.	about 35,000	Lifeboats, speedboats, helicopters, icebreaker ships.	The U.S. Coast Guard was created in 1790. Congress established it to stamp out smuggling and piracy along the coasts of the U.S.
MARINE CORPS	An elite combat organization responsible for military exercises on land and in the seas.	about 185,000	Tanks, helicopters, and other vehicles. The Navy often provides ships and aircraft for transport and support for the Marines.	The Marine Corps was established in November 1775 to fight in the Revolutionary War. After the war, it was disbanded. The U.S. Congress re-created it in 1798.
NAVY	To protect and defend the nation and to ensure the freedom of the seas.	about 375,000	Aircraft carriers, battleships, cruisers, destroyers, frigates, submarines, and communication ships.	The Navy was established in October 1775 to fight in the Revolutionary War. After the war, it was disbanded. The Navy was officially relaunched in 1797.

- Which military branch has the largest number of active personnel?

- Based on the information in the chart, explain the relationship between the Navy and the Marine Corps.

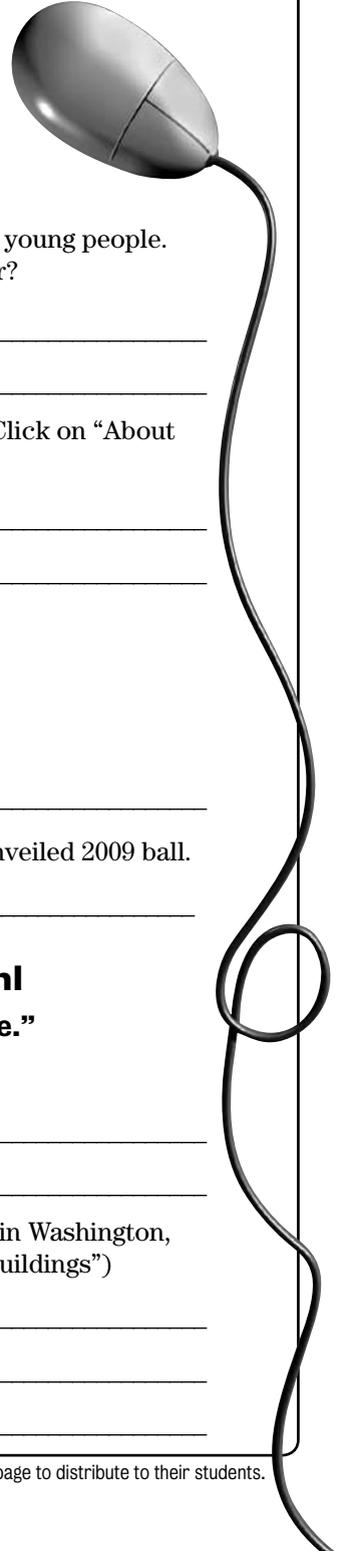
- What event led to the establishment in the same year of three of the five military branches?

- Compare and contrast the composition and missions of the Coast Guard and the Navy.

Name: _____

Find It on the Web

You read about a variety of topics in this issue of *Scholastic News*. Learn more about what you have read by doing research online. Research the following news topics using the Internet. Visit the Web sites listed to answer the questions.



● **At www.ysa.org/**

1. Youth Service America is an organization that encourages volunteerism among young people. When will Youth Service America's "Global Youth Service Day" occur next year?

2. Who is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Youth Service America? (Click on "About YSA," then "Board of Directors")

● **At www.timessquarenyc.org/nye/nye_ball.html**

The New Year's Eve crystal ball is well-known across America.

3. In what city and state was the new New Year's Eve ball unveiled this year?

4. Name one difference between the 1907 New Year's Eve ball and the recently unveiled 2009 ball.

● **At <http://clerkkids.house.gov/congress/index.html>**

The U.S. House of Representatives is often called the "People's House."

5. Who is your Representative in Congress?

6. What is the name of the House Office Building located near Second Street SW in Washington, D.C.? (Go to the "Did You Know" section and click on the link "House Office Buildings")
